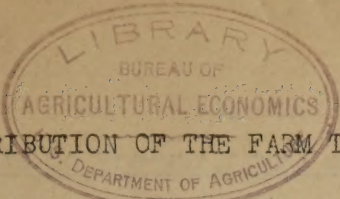


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## THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FARM TO FAMILY LIFE

By H. M. Dixon

Conference  
H. M. Dixon  
Nov. 9-12  
1931

The farm, in contrast to other lines of business, is unique in that it has basic and fundamental contributions to family life not supplied in most other lines of industry. It contributes a business and a home. This subject includes so many considerations that I find it necessary in the time allowed to limit this paper to a few of the more tangible and outstanding considerations from a financial standpoint.

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We should not enter into any discussion of the financial consideration, however, before at least a brief reference to those more intangible contributions of the farm that in many instances have as much weight as the financial issue upon a family's decision to accept farming as a life-time occupation or in keeping many people on farms that know they might have a larger opportunity financially in other lines of activity. I do not know of any definite way of measuring the value of those things I am attempting to refer to here but feel quite confident that all those working with rural people and problems must be sufficiently farm-minded to understand and appreciate these intangible benefits if their work is to be really effective and constructive. It is true that the city has far more to offer a family in the way of artificiality and high cost services than the country, but the spread between the prices the farmer receives for products and those the consumer pays is sufficient indication that the city folks are paying for all the service they get. Although types of farming, locality, traditions of the people vary greatly in this broad land, yet the developments in farming and the agencies influencing farm life have been so marked that rural progress is now made with more equal advantages of country and city than for any previous period. Among the things bringing this about are the marked improvement in transportation facilities, farming methods and farm and home conveniences.

No one realizes better than the farmer that as a rule no phenomenal profits can be expected from farming. Agriculture is a good life work and will contribute a good home, a good standard of living, and a moderate return on investment, providing both capital and labor are wisely expended.

Let us now turn our attention to a consideration of the incomes in farming. May I say at the beginning that I have preferred in this paper to submit tables of facts bearing on this subject with limited interpretations rather than to submit an extended discussion. The tables should perhaps be the more helpful to those desiring to use such material. Each of you know, I am sure, that the worker in farm management is dealing with this question continuously. Fifteen years ago, very few facts were available in regard to what farm profits were or what were the important business factors that enabled some farmers to make far more money than others. Today, however, most states have sufficient facts dealing with the business side of farming to throw much light upon this important subject.







Labor Incomes in Pre-war, War, and Post-war Years.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in cooperation with the state agricultural colleges, has made a summary of the business of nearly 50,000 farms, and the labor incomes from farms for the pre-war, war, and post-war periods are shown in the following table:

Table I. - Average labor incomes from farms in pre-war, war, and post-war periods.

Labor Income Groups.	1910-1915 23,083 records 183 areas 83 states	1916-1919 7,531 records 67 areas 24 states	1920 - 1923 5,649 records 32 areas 17 states
Highest one-fifth	\$1,586	\$2,379	\$1,953
Second one-fifth	660	1,171	538
Third one-fifth	330	716	10
Fourth one-fifth	44	301	-540
Lowest one-fifth	-504	-474	-1,849
Average of all.....	423	819	22

Labor income before the war period averaged \$423 from over 23,000 farms. During the war, it was about double this, and from 1920 to 1923 there has been little left as pay for the farmer's own labor after paying his operating expenses, allowing for labor performed by members of his family, and deducting 5 per cent interest on capital. It averaged \$22 per farm per year for all records and \$35 per farm for the western district. Family living from the farm averaged \$519 per farm for the country as a whole and \$471 for the western district.

The records in this table are also grouped into fifths. The spread between the lower incomes of the highest and the lowest one-fifth is an important consideration. In the pre-war period only the lowest one-fifth were in the red, while from 1920 to 1923, 40 per cent were on the wrong side of the ledger in labor. The widest variations in labor income have occurred since the war period, ranging from \$1,953 for the highest one-fifth to minus \$1,849 for the lowest one-fifth.

It should also be said, however, that the situation for 1924 was much improved. In 1922, the average labor income of 100 good farms in Woodford county, Illinois, was \$675. In 1923 it was \$447, while in 1924 it was \$1,890. Records from a group of farms in Weld county, Colorado, showed a minus labor income of \$887 in 1922 but improved to a plus \$602 in 1923 and to \$2,970 in 1924. While not all areas show as much or as marked improvement as this, there is no doubt of improvement in many areas in 1924 over the previous three or four years.

Table 2 gives the same information from farms in the western district,



Labor Income in Pre-war, War, and Post-war Years

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in cooperation with the Agricultural College, has made a summary of the business of nearly 50,000 farms, and the labor income from farms for the pre-war, war, and post-war periods are shown in the following table:

Table 1. - Average labor income from farms in pre-war, war, and post-war periods.

Labor Income Group	1913-1917	1918-1919	1920-1924
Highest one-fifth	\$1,585	\$2,340	\$2,610
Second one-fifth	800	1,050	1,150
Middle one-fifth	325	450	500
Fourth one-fifth	140	200	220
Lowest one-fifth	50	70	80
Average of all	319	419	459

Labor income during the war period averaged \$1,585 from over 50,000 farms. During the war, income rose sharply, and from 1918 to 1919 it rose to \$2,340. This was due to the fact that the farmer's own labor was being used in the production of food and other necessities, and the government was paying for the labor of the farmer. The average labor income from farms in the pre-war period was \$319, and in the post-war period it was \$459. This shows a steady increase in labor income from farms over the years.

The records in this table are also grouped by the amount of land owned by the farmer. The lowest income is from the smallest farms, and the highest income is from the largest farms. This is because the larger farms have more land and more labor, and therefore they can produce more and earn more money. The average labor income from farms in the pre-war period was \$319, and in the post-war period it was \$459. This shows a steady increase in labor income from farms over the years.

It should also be noted, however, that the labor income for 1924 was much higher than in 1917. In 1917, the average labor income of 100 good farms in Wisconsin was \$505. In 1924 it was \$1,150, which is more than double the 1917 figure. This is due to the fact that the farmer's own labor was being used in the production of food and other necessities, and the government was paying for the labor of the farmer. The average labor income from farms in the pre-war period was \$319, and in the post-war period it was \$459. This shows a steady increase in labor income from farms over the years.

This table gives the same information as the table in the previous section, but it is arranged in a different way. It shows the average labor income from farms in the pre-war, war, and post-war periods, and it is grouped by the amount of land owned by the farmer.



Table 2. -Average labor incomes for farms in the Western States in pre-war, war, and post-war periods.

Labor Income Groups	1910-1915	1916-1919	1920-1923		
	4,021 records 41 areas 6 states	426 records 2 areas 2 states	Irrigated 924 records 6 areas 3 states	Non- irrigated 1,537 records 10 areas 5 states	Total 2,461 records 16 areas 6 states
Highest one-fifth.....	1,767	4,764	2,213	2,678	2,504
Second one-fifth.....	746	2,318	512	810	699
Third one-fifth.....	384	1,414	-40	-2	-16
Fourth one-fifth.....	66	774	-544	-780	-691
Lowest one-fifth.....	-540	-472	-1,616	-2,738	-2,316
Average of all...	483	1,760	105	-7	35

The average labor income from 4,021 records from the western states for the pre-war period was \$483. For the period, 1916 to 1919, only 426 records from 2 areas were available, and the labor income averaged \$1,760, while for the period, 1920 to 1923, it averaged \$35 for 2,461 farms. This simply shows that, for the group of farms under study at least, labor income returns for the western district were affected by the depression in about the same proportion as for the country as a whole. By dividing the records for this post-war period into those from irrigated areas and those from all other areas (these latter are mostly wheat areas) we find that the average labor income from the irrigation farming area was \$105 and from the others a minus \$7. Before and during the war period, only 20% of these labor incomes were in the red, but for the period, 1920 to 1923, 60 per cent, or three-fifths of the groups, are on the minus side. What was said about improvements in general for 1924 over these other years holds equally true for the western district for most types of farming.

#### Farm and Family Incomes

So far, this discussion has dealt with labor incomes from farms, and while this is perhaps the best measure so far developed for a comparison of efficiency one farmer with another, it is not a measure of farm or family incomes or profits. Farm or family incomes are derived from two sources. The amount left after deducting farm expenses from the total receipts is the cash consideration and the amount the farm contributes in the way of the use of the house, food, fuel, etc., is the other contribution.

Table 3 - Pre-war, war and post-war incomes.

The average incomes from farming obtained from farm-business surveys are shown in Table 3. The data are grouped in three periods: One of rather normal price levels from 1910 to 1915; one of high price levels from 1916 to 1919; and one when the prices of many commodities the farmer had to sell were declining more rapidly than those he had to buy from 1920 to 1923.



Table 2. - Average labor incomes for farms in the Western States in 1910-1913, 1914-1917, and 1918-1919.

Labor Income Groups	1910-1913	1914-1917	1918-1919
Average of all...	1.730	1.730	1.730
Lowest 25 per cent...	1.440	1.440	1.440
25 per cent above lowest...	1.730	1.730	1.730
Third 25 per cent...	1.730	1.730	1.730
Fourth 25 per cent...	1.730	1.730	1.730
Highest 25 per cent...	1.730	1.730	1.730
Total	1.730	1.730	1.730

The pre-war period was a period of general prosperity for the farmer. The average labor income for farms in the Western States in 1910-1913 was \$1,730. This was a record for the period. The average labor income for farms in the Western States in 1914-1917 was \$1,730. This was a record for the period. The average labor income for farms in the Western States in 1918-1919 was \$1,730. This was a record for the period.

### Farm and Family Income

So far, this discussion has dealt with labor income from farms, and while this is perhaps the best measure of the farmer's income, it is not the only one. The farmer's family income is also an important factor. The average family income for farms in the Western States in 1910-1913 was \$1,730. This was a record for the period. The average family income for farms in the Western States in 1914-1917 was \$1,730. This was a record for the period. The average family income for farms in the Western States in 1918-1919 was \$1,730. This was a record for the period.

Table 3. - Pre-war, war, and post-war incomes.

The average income from farming obtained from farm-business surveys and shown in Table 3. The average income from farming obtained from farm-business surveys and shown in Table 3. The average income from farming obtained from farm-business surveys and shown in Table 3.



Table 3 - Average incomes from farm - business surveys

Item	1910 - 1915	1916 - 1919	1920 - 1923
	23,083 records 183 localities 33 states	7,531 records 67 localities 24 states	5,649 records 32 localities 17 states
Land area per farm...acres	183	162	285
Capital.....dols.	16,854	18,142	23,313
Receipts.....do	2,440	3,230	3,514
Expenses.....do	1,174	1,504	2,326
Farm income.....do	1,266	1,726	1,188
Labor income @ 5%....do	423	819	22
Percentage on capital %	4.9	6.3	2.9
Family living from the farm.....dols	426	582	519
Farmer's labor.....do	440	509	683
Other family labor...do	98	143	174
Family income.....do	1,364	1,869	1,362

Table 4 - Pre-war, war, and post-war incomes from farms in Western States

Item	1910-1915	1916-1919	1920 - 1923		
			All Farms	Irrigated farms	Non-Irrigated farms
Number of farms.....	4,021	426	2,361	924	1,437
Farm area.....	166	187	393	74	585
Capital.....	15,460	38,352	30,850	22,281	35,993
Receipts.....	2,346	6,848	4,827	3,647	5,535
Expenses.....	1,090	3,170	3,249	2,428	3,742
Farm income.....	1,256	3,678	1,578	1,219	1,793
Labor income @ 5%....	483	1,760	35	105	-7
Per cent on capital..	5.5	7.1	2.4	1.7	2.7
Family living.....	---	562	471	490	460
Farmers labor.....	402	964	835	830	837
Family labor.....	103	191	148	137	154
Family income.....	1,359	3,869	1,726	1,356	1,947

The full tables for the country as a whole (table 3) and for the western district (table 4) are included with no attempt to fully analyze them. Family income as averaged for all records was \$1,364 per farm before the war period and \$1,362 for the post-war period. Averaging the records from the western states for these same two periods, family income was \$1,359 and \$1,726 respectively. The capital involved in returning the family income should be considered in any comparison of these results.

The family income varies far more from year to year than does the value of family living furnished by the farm. This latter item amounted to \$426 per farm in the pre-war period and is now 20 per cent above this amount, and the figures for the western states compare favorably with those from the country as a whole. Family living from the farm averages about 38 per cent of the total cost of family living.



Table 3 - Average income from farm - business surveys

Item	1910-1919 33 States	1915-1919 24 States	1920-1929 14 States
Land area per farm... acres	183	182	283
Capital... \$	18,854	18,142	23,313
Receipts... \$	2,413	2,230	2,313
Expenses... \$	1,174	1,204	1,230
Net income... \$	1,239	1,026	1,083
Labor income... \$	433	419	423
Per cent on capital... %	4.9	5.3	5.3
Family income... \$	438	382	318
Farmer's labor... \$	440	309	283
Other... \$	88	143	135
Family income... \$	1,254	1,026	1,083

Table 4 - Pre-war, war, and post-war income from farms in Western States

Item	1910-1919 1910-1919	1915-1919 1915-1919	1920-1929 1920-1929	1930-1939 1930-1939
Number of farms...	4,021	4,021	4,021	4,021
Land area... acres	183	183	183	183
Capital... \$	18,854	18,854	18,854	18,854
Receipts... \$	2,413	2,413	2,413	2,413
Expenses... \$	1,174	1,174	1,174	1,174
Net income... \$	1,239	1,239	1,239	1,239
Labor income... \$	433	433	433	433
Per cent on capital... %	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Family income... \$	438	438	438	438
Farmer's labor... \$	440	440	440	440
Family labor... \$	103	103	103	103
Family income... \$	1,254	1,254	1,254	1,254

The full tables for the country as a whole (Table 2) and for the western district (Table 3) are included with no attempt to fully analyze them. Family income as averaged for all records was \$1,254 for the pre-war period, and \$1,254 for the post-war period. The records from the western states for these same two periods, family income was \$1,254 and \$1,254 respectively. The capital involved in running the family income should be considered in any comparison of these results.

The family income varies far more from year to year than does the value of family living. This latter item amounted to \$418 per farm in the pre-war period and is now 30 per cent above this amount, and the figures for the western district are even higher. The family income as a whole, family living, for the farm average is about 30 per cent above the local cost of family living.



Year	Palouse area		Twin Falls Idaho		Sherman Co. Ore.		Yakima Wash.		King and Pierce Co. Wash.		Malheur Co. Ore		Weld Co. Colo.	
	F.I.	F.L.	F.I.	F.L.	F.I.	F.L.	F.I.	F.L.	F.I.	F.L.	F.I.	F.L.	F.I.	F.L.
1914	2,462	400											2,870	
1915									432	300			2,053	
1919	4,870	608	2,867	576								1,675		
1920	1,967	573	1,479	580	5,485	675						80		
1921	610	480	820	534	4,674	548	760	388	580	316		20	3,016	505
1922			1,517	507	1,107	513	542	425				365	1,051	331
1923												397	3,729	348
1924													5,282	351
F.I. Family income,														
F.L. Family living,														







Following this question of income variation a little farther, you might be interested in table 6. This table gives the labor income variation over a period of years of several types of farming outside the western district. The question might be raised as to whether farming in the western states is more hazardous than the types practiced in many other areas of the country. A comparison of the fluctuation of labor incomes from year to year for the areas shown here with those from your local areas should be helpful in answering such questions. Time will not permit my making such comparisons. I shall only say that if you have areas that show any wider variation than that for Woodford County, Illinois, from \$4,563 in 1917 to minus \$2,227 in 1921, and any areas that show lower labor incomes over a long period than that shown for Niagara county, New York, of \$285 as a 12-year average, or Washington county, Ohio, of \$270 as an 11-year average, the banner is yours.

Table 6 - Average labor incomes over a period of years  
from farms of different types.

A R E A							
Item	Woodford Co., Ill.	Niagara Co. N.Y.	Frederick Co., Va.	Polk Co. Fla.	Wash. Co. Ohio	Clinton Co. Ind.	Dane Co. Wis.
No. of farms	80	112	125	100	25	100	60
Acres	200	70	159	41	157	127	148
Capital	\$59,000	\$16,449	\$29,428	\$31,268	\$6,683	\$26,791	\$17,692
Type of Farming	Corn small grain, Hogs.	Fruit	Fruit & general	Citrus fruit	Cattle, sheep, poultry	Hogs & corn	Dairy & hogs.
Labor	----	----	----	----	\$147	----	----
Incomes							
1912...							
1913...	----	\$ 1,196	----	----	\$ 160	\$ 256	\$ 214
1914...	----	-580	----	----	258	44	56
1915...	----	-177	----	----	156	187	68
1916...	\$1,133	285	\$1,962	----	303	810	627
1917...	4,563	534	1,108	\$ -429	652	852	1,075
1918...	2,927	820	2,208	2,194	356	1,421	1,189
1919...	2,757	571	1,218	3,392	875	1,143	-----
1920...	-1,528	267	-393	3,790	98	-----	-----
1921...	-2,227	138	-----	-1,194	-181	-----	-----
1922...	-675	244	-----	2,274	149	-----	-----
1923...	-447	-273	-----	-----	---	-----	-----
1924...	1,890	401	-----	-----	---	-----	-----







Family Living Costs

In an analysis of incomes from farming, it is also well to turn our attention for a few moments to family living costs. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics the past few years has made a number of studies by the survey method of the cost of living on farms and the distribution of these costs. It is my feeling that this type of study offers a definite basis for close cooperation between those engaged in farm economic and home economic extension work. While these studies are new, it is believed that good standards of living can be set up from such studies in the same manner that standards are set up as a guide in successful farm organization and management. In table 7, the family living costs are summed up from about 3,000 records in 9 states for 1923 and 1924. Family living from the farm averaged \$633, and the average purchases per farm were \$870. This makes a total living cost per family of \$1,503. This is an average of all the records so far assembled, and the results for different communities vary widely from this figure and are available for those desiring them. Food and clothing represent one-half of the cash outlay for family living. The auto expense is third in importance and doctor bills and medicine fourth, fuel fifth, life and health insurance is the sixth item of importance in family living costs.







Average value per family for the principal groups of goods furnished by the farm and purchased during one year, 1922 - 1924. 2883 farm families of selected localities of the United States.

Owners, tenants and hired men.

	Furnished by farm	Purchased	Total.
Total	\$633.70	\$870.20	\$1503.90
1. Food	\$395.30	\$223.90	\$619.20
2. Clothing	-----	220.30	220.30
3. Rent (10% value of house)	187.0	----	187.0
4. Furnishings and equipment	-----	40.90	40.90
5. Operating expenses			209.20
a. Fuel	51.40	41.50	
b. Hired help	-----	11.00	
c. Household supplies	-----	10.20	
d. Laundry outside	-----	4.30	
e. Auto	-----	74.10	
f. Horse and buggy	-----	5.00	
g. Carefare	-----	1.10	
h. Phone	-----	5.80	
i. Postage, express & freight	-----	2.10	
j. Insurance on furn. & equip.	-----	1.10	
k. Ice	-----	1.60	
l. Water	-----	.00	
6. Health	-----	59.10	59.10
7. Advancement			94.40
a. Formal education	-----	30.90	
b. Reading matter	-----	11.00	
c. Organization dues	-----	3.50	
d. Church, S.S. & Miss.	-----	25.60	
e. Red Cross & Other Wel.	-----	.80	
f. Recreation	-----	22.60	
8. Personal			36.00
a. Gifts	-----	13.30	
b. Jewelry	-----	1.20	
c. Toilet articles, etc.	-----	8.40	
d. Candy, gum, sodas	-----	3.90	
e. Tobacco, pipes etc.	-----	9.20	
9. Insurance (life and health)	-----	35.30	35.30
10. Unclassified	-----	2.50	2.50

Farm Expenses and the Amount of Income  
Available for Family Living, Interest, and Savings.

We have seen from this analysis that farm incomes vary with types of farming and from year to year. This is an important consideration in promoting any system of budgeting farm or household expenditures. While we will not



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have time to go into any careful analysis of the efficiency factors making some farms more profitable than others, there are a few points that do not seem to be so generally understood that should be considered.

We sometimes hear the farmer criticized for paying more attention to expenditures in farm or farm business improvements, such as new barns, better livestock, etc., than to improvements in living conditions, such as bath, kitchen conveniences, etc. While I would concede poor living conditions as a leak in any well organized farm business, all studies in farm management justify wise expenditures by farmers for livestock, improved machinery, or other items that make his business more efficient and profitable. In fact, we find the most successful farmers making more such expenditures than the unsuccessful. We have just analyzed family living expenses let us now analyze the farm expenses to see how much of the total receipts are really spent for livestock, machinery, etc., as compared to what is left for family living, interest, and savings. I have these data from the Palouse area of Idaho and Washington (table 8) and from one eastern Corn-Belt area (table 9). The Palouse area figures are a three year average, 1919-1921, and the Indiana figures an eight-year average, 1910-1913 to 1919. We have in

Table 8. Farm receipts and expenses  
Palouse Area, Idaho - Washington, 1919 to 1921.

ITEM	Three-year average 239 farms		Three-year average 10 best farms	
Farm receipts.....	\$6,319		\$8,291	
Family living from the farm..	554		467	
Amount spent for:	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Hired labor.....	\$ 647	10.2	\$ 570	6.9
Feed and seed.....	367	5.8	306	3.7
Livestock.....	176	2.8	387	4.7
Machinery repairs.....	111	1.8	95	1.1
New Machinery.....	212	3.4	156	1.9
Auto.....	153	2.4	163	2.0
House repairs.....	26	.4	24	.3
House improvements.....	46	.7	64	.8
Farm-building repairs.....	29	.5	27	.3
Farm-building improvements..	30	.5	17	.2
Fences.....	49	.8	46	.6
Taxes and insurance.....	424	6.7	414	5.0
Threshing, twine & sacks....	994	15.7	941	11.3
Other farm expenses.....	248	3.9	331	4.0
Available for family living interest and savings.....	2,807	44.4	4,750	57.2







Table 9 - Farm receipts and expenses  
Clinton County, Ind.

Item	Eight-year average 100 farms		Eight-year average 10 best farms.	
	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Farm receipts.....	\$3,462		\$8,395	
Family living from the farm.	347		411	
Amount spent for:	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Livestock.....	\$ 455	13.1	\$1,474	17.6
Feed and seed.....	243	7.	660	7.9
Hired labor.....	172	5.	428	5.1
Taxes and insurance.....	190	5.5	373	4.4
Machinery repairs.....	15	.4	28	.3
New Machinery.....	72	2.1	185	2.2
House repairs.....	9	.3	10	.1
House improvements.....	28	.8	19	.2
Farm-building repairs.....	12	.3	10	.1
Farm-building improvements...	60	1.7	92	1.1
Fences.....	47	1.3	71	.8
Threshing.....	36	1.	81	1.0
Other farm expenses.....	135	4.	518	6.2
Available for family living, interest, and savings.....	1,987	57.5	4,446	53.

these tables the averages for the area and the averages for the 10 most successful farms. The average expense for livestock and machinery purchased and building improvements made was only \$464 per farm, or 7 per cent of the farm receipts, and on the better paying farms these items amounted to \$625 per farm. Hired labor, feed, seed, taxes, insurance, and threshing amounted to \$2,312 per farm, or 38 per cent of the receipts. On the 10 better paying farms, these items amounted to \$2,231. After deducting all farm expenses, the Palouse area farms returned an average of \$2,807 for family living, interest, and savings after deducting operating expenses from total receipts. The 10 farms giving highest income returns showed \$4,750 available. It is probable that the years represented with these returns are above normal, but the ratio of expenditures should be fairly representative. In the Indiana area, which is a livestock district, the amount spent for livestock, machinery, and building improvement amounted to \$615 on the average farm and \$1,770 on the 10 better paying farms. The amount available for family living, interest, and savings on the average farm was \$1,987 and on the better paying farms \$4,446. These tables show no justification for criticizing farmers in general for farm business expenditures that make their business a more profitable and efficient unit. About 25 per cent of the farmers receive 50 per cent of the income in most areas, and an analysis of the expenditures of this 25 per cent will show them spending more for such items than the average man. We find the better paying farms not only have more farm conveniences but more home conveniences as well.







In conclusion it should be apparent from this analysis that an understanding of farm incomes and the variations and limitations in these incomes is essential in sound extension program building.

We must also think of farms as business units and analyze them as business units if we are going to be of most service to farm people in obtaining larger contributions in both tangible and intangible benefits.

If we have some farming areas where cash family income averages \$500 to \$1000 per year and others where this average is \$2000 to \$3000 we should find out where these areas are. We should also determine the reasons for these differences and use these data as a basis of constructive and sympathetic extension activities.







# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

U. S. Département of Agriculture  
and State Agricultural Colleges  
Cooperating.

Extension Service, Office of  
Cooperative Extension Work,  
Washington, D.C.

## FARM-INCOME STATISTICS\*

Table 1.- Average labor incomes from farms in prewar, war, and postwar periods.

	1910-1915	1916-1919	1920 - 1923
	23,083 records	7,531 records	5,649 records.
Labor Income Groups.	183 areas	67 areas	32 areas
	32 States	24 States	17 States.
Highest one-fifth.....	\$ 1,586	\$ 2,379	\$ 1,958
Second Highest one-fifth.....	660	1,171	528
Third highest one-fifth.....	330	716	10
Fourth highest one-fifth.....	44	301	-540
Lowest one-fifth.....	<u>*504</u>	<u>-474</u>	<u>-1,849</u>
Average of all.....	423	819	22

Table 2.- Average labor incomes for farms in the Western States  
in prewar, war, and postwar periods.

	1910-1915	1916-1919	1920 - 1922	
			Non-	
			Irrigated	
Labor Income Groups	4,021	426	924	1,537
	records	records	records	records
	41 areas	2 areas	16 areas	10 areas
	6 States	2 States	3 States	5 States
Highest one-fifth.....	1,767	4,764	2,213	2,678
Second highest one-fifth...	746	2,318	512	810
Third highest one-fifth...	384	1,414	-40	-2
Fourth highest one-fifth...	66	774	-544	-780
Lowest one-fifth.....	<u>-540</u>	<u>-472</u>	<u>-1,616</u>	<u>-2,718</u>
Average of all.....	483	1,760	105	-7

\* Statistics presented with a paper entitled "Contribution of the Farm to Family Life" by H. M. Dixon at the Western States Extension Conference, Pullman, Wash., November, 1925.





Table 3.- Prewar, war, and postwar incomes.

The average incomes from farming obtained from farm-business surveys are shown in Table 3. The data are grouped in three periods: One of rather normal price levels from 1910 to 1915; one of high price levels from 1916 to 1919; and one when the prices of many commodities the farmer had to sell were declining more rapidly than those he had to buy from 1920 to 1923.

Table 3. - Average incomes from farm-business surveys

Item	: 1910 - 1915 : 23,083 records : 183 localities : 33 States	: 1916 - 1919 : 7,531 records : 67 localities : 24 States	: 1920 - 1923 : 5,649 records : 32 localities : 17 States.
Land area per farm... acres :	183	162	285
Capital.....dols.:	16,854	18,142	23,315
Receipts..... do :	2,440	3,230	3,514
Expenses..... do :	1,174	1,504	2,526
Farm income..... do :	1,266	1,726	1,188
Labor income @ 5%..... do :	423	819	22
Percentage on capital.. % :	4.9	6.3	2.9
Family living from the farm.....dols :	426	582	519
Farmer's labor..... do :	440	509	683
Other family labor..... do :	98	143	174
Family income..... do :	1,364	1,869	1,362

Table 4.- Prewar, war, and postwar incomes from farms in Western States.

Item	: 1910-1915	: 1916-1919	: 1920 - 1923 : Irrigated : Non-irrigated : All Farms: farms : farms
Number of farms.....:	4,021	426	2,361 : 924 : 1,437
Farm area.....:	166	187	303 : 74 : 585
Capital.....:	15,460	38,352	30,850 : 22,281 : 35,993
Receipts.....:	2,346	6,848	4,827 : 3,647 : 5,535
Expenses.....:	1,090	3,170	3,249 : 2,428 : 3,742
Farm income.....:	1,256	3,678	1,578 : 1,219 : 1,793
Labor income @ 5%.....:	483	1,760	35 : 105 : -7
Per cent on capital...:	5.5	7.1	2.4 : 1.7 : 2.7
Family living.....:	---	562	471 : 490 : 460
Farmers labor... :	402	964	835 : 830 : 837
Family labor.....:	103	191	148 : 137 : 154
Family income.....:	1,359	3,869	1,726 : 1,356 : 1,947





Table 5.- Family income and family living from farms  
in several western areas over a period of years.

Year :	Palouse : area	: Twin Falls : Idaho	: Sherman Co., : Ore	: Yakima, : Wash.	: King and : Pierce Cos: : Wash.	: Malheur : Co., Ore.	: Weld Co., : Colo.
	: F.I. F.L.:	: F.I. F.L.	: F.I. F.L.	: F.I. F.L.	: F.I. F.L.	: F.I. F.L.	: F.I. F.L.
1914 :	2,462 400	:	:	:	:	:	2,870
1915 :	:	:	:	:	432 300	:	4,053
1919 :	4,870 608	2,867 576	:	:	:	1,675	:
1920 :	1,967 573	1,479 580	5,485 675	:	:	80	:
1921 :	610 480	820 534	4,674 548	760 388	580 316	20	3,016 505
1922 :	:	1,517 507	1,107 513	542 425	:	365	1,051 331
1923 :	:	:	:	:	:	397	3,729 348
1924 :	:	:	:	:	:	:	5,282 351
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

F.I. Family income.

F.L. Family living.





Table 6 - Average labor incomes over a period of years  
from farms of different types.

A R E A

Item	Woodford Co., Ill.	Niagara Co., N.Y.	Frederick Co., Va.	Polk Co., Fla.	Wash. Co., Ohio.	Clinton Co., Ind.	Dane Co., Wis.
Number of farms	80	112	125	100	25	100	60
Acres	200	70	159	41	157	127	148
Capital	\$59,000	\$16,449	\$29,428	\$31,268	\$6,683	\$26,791	\$17,692
Type of Farming	Corn, small grain, hogs.	Fruit	Fruit and general	Citrus fruit	Cattle, sheep and poultry	Hogs and corn.	Dairy and hogs.
Labor incomes							
1912....	---	---	---	---	\$147	---	---
1913....	---	\$1,196	---	---	160	\$256	\$214
1914....	---	- 580	---	---	258	44	56
1915....	---	- 177	---	---	156	187	68
1916....	\$1,133	285	\$1,962	---	303	810	627
1917....	4,563	534	1,108	\$- 429	652	852	1,075
1918....	2,927	820	2,208	2,194	356	1,421	1,189
1919....	2,757	571	1,218	3,392	875	1,143	-----
1920....	-1,528	267	-393	3,790	98	---	-----
1921....	-2,227	138	---	-1,194	-181	---	-----
1922....	-675	244	---	2,274	149	---	-----
1923....	*447	-273	---	---	---	---	-----
1924....	1,890	401	---	---	---	---	-----



100

Table 7. - Family living costs average of 3,000 records in 9 States,  
1923 and 1924.

Item	Furnished by farm		Purchased.	
	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Use of house.....	\$187	29.5	---	---
Fuel.....	51	8.1	---	---
Food.....	395	62.4	\$224	25.7
Clothing.....	---	---	220	25.3
Furniture.....	---	---	41	4.7
Operation goods.....	---	---	158	18.1
Health maintenance goods.....	---	---	59	6.8
Advancement goods and services:	---	---	94	10.9
Personal goods.....	---	---	36	4.1
Insurance premiums.....	---	---	35	4.1
Unclassified goods.....	---	---	2	.3
Total.....	632	100	870	100





Table 8. Farm receipts and expenses,  
Palcuse Area, Idaho - Washington, 1919 to 1921.

Item	: Three-year average	: Three-year average
	: 239 farms	: 10 best farms
Farm receipts.....	\$6,319	\$8,291
Family living from the farm....	554	467
Amount spent for:	: Amount : Percentage	: Amount : Percentage.
Hired labor.....	\$ 647 : 10.2	\$ 570 : 6.9
Feed and seed.....	367 : 5.8	306 : 3.7
Livestock.....	176 : 2.8	387 : 4.7
Machinery repairs.....	111 : 1.8	95 : 1.1
New Machinery.....	212 : 3.4	156 : 1.9
Auto.....	153 : 2.4	163 : 2.0
House repairs.....	26 : .4	24 : .3
House improvements.....	46 : .7	64 : .8
Farm-building repairs.....	29 : .5	27 : .3
Farm-building improvements...	30 : .5	17 : .2
Fences.....	49 : .8	46 : .6
Taxes and insurance.....	424 : 6.7	414 : 5.0
Threshing, twine and sacks....	994 : 15.7	941 : 11.3
Other farm expenses.....	248 : 3.9	331 : 4.0
Available for family living.	:	:
interest and savings.....	2,807 : 44.4	4,750 : 57.2





Table 9. Farm receipts and expenses,  
Clinton County, Ind.

Item	: Eight-year average : 100 farms	: Eight-year average : 10 best farms
Farm receipts.....	\$3,462	\$ 8,395
Family living from the farm...	347	411
Amount spent for:	Amount : Percentage	Amount : Percentage.
Livestock.....	\$455 : 13.1	\$1,474 : 17.6
Feed and seed.....	243 : 7.	660 : 7.9
Hired labor.....	172 : 5.	428 : 5.1
Taxes and insurance.....	190 : 5.5	373 : 4.4
Machinery repairs.....	15 : .4	28 : .3
New Machinery.....	72 : 2.1	185 : 2.2
House repairs.....	9 : .3	10 : .1
House improvements.....	28 : .8	19 : .2
Farm-building repairs.....	12 : .3	10 : .1
Farm-building improvements...	60 : 1.7	92 : 1.1
Fences.....	47 : 1.3	71 : .8
Threshing.....	36 : 1.	81 : 1.0
Other farm expenses.....	135 : 4.	518 : 6.2
Available for family living, interest, and savings.....	1,987 : 57.5	4,446 : 53.



Item	1960-1961 season	1961-1962 season
1. Total number of cases	1,200	1,100
2. Total number of deaths	150	140
3. Total number of recoveries	1,050	960
4. Total number of relapses	100	110
5. Total number of cases with complications	200	180
6. Total number of cases with sequelae	180	170
7. Total number of cases with chronic disease	120	110
8. Total number of cases with acute disease	80	70
9. Total number of cases with subacute disease	60	50
10. Total number of cases with asymptomatic disease	40	30
11. Total number of cases with mild disease	30	20
12. Total number of cases with moderate disease	20	10
13. Total number of cases with severe disease	10	5
14. Total number of cases with fatal disease	5	2
15. Total number of cases with unknown outcome	10	10
16. Total number of cases with incomplete data	10	10
17. Total number of cases with missing data	10	10
18. Total number of cases with no data	10	10
19. Total number of cases with no follow-up	10	10
20. Total number of cases with no treatment	10	10
21. Total number of cases with no diagnosis	10	10
22. Total number of cases with no history	10	10
23. Total number of cases with no physical examination	10	10
24. Total number of cases with no laboratory tests	10	10
25. Total number of cases with no imaging studies	10	10
26. Total number of cases with no pathology	10	10
27. Total number of cases with no clinical course	10	10
28. Total number of cases with no outcome	10	10
29. Total number of cases with no data	10	10
30. Total number of cases with no follow-up	10	10